

# Selecting a Sponsor for Confirmation

Many of you will wonder who you should choose as a sponsor for your confirmation. It is desirable, but not necessary, that your baptismal godparent also serve as your sponsor for confirmation. This is a way to express more clearly the relationship between baptism and confirmation. In a real way, the godparent's role and responsibility as a sponsor is more powerful.

## Who is eligible to be a sponsor?

The Catholic Church requires the following:

- You must choose your sponsor, and your sponsor must be willing to help you lead a Christian life in harmony with your baptism call and fulfill the obligations connected with it.
- Your sponsor must be at least sixteen years of age.
- Your sponsor must be Roman Catholic, baptized and confirmed, and have received the first communion.
- Your sponsor must be practicing their faith, that is, a faithful Catholic who attends Sunday Mass on a regular basis.
- If married, they must be married according to the regulations of the Catholic faith.
- Your sponsor must be someone besides your parents. The Church prefers that the godparents at baptism serve again as the sponsor at confirmation. You may choose any one of your brother, sister, godfather, godmother, aunt uncle, cousin, friend or neighbour who meets these requirements. Your parents, step-parents, foster parents, or guardians may NOT act as sponsors.

## The Role of the Sponsor

The sponsor is responsible for seeing that the confirmed person lives as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations arising out of the sacrament. On the day of the Confirmation, the sponsors bring their candidates to receive the sacrament, present them to the bishop or priest for anointing, and later help them fulfill their baptismal promises, with the help of the Holy Spirit whom they have received.

The role of sponsor is large, important, and rewarding! May the Holy Spirit guide and inspire you.

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